

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 6, so that the claims read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising a stack containing a plurality of unit cells laminated, compressed and retained via retaining plates, said unit cells each comprising a pair of electrodes sandwiching a polymer electrolyte membrane and conductive separator plates having a gas supply channel on at least one surface thereof and sandwiching said electrodes,

wherein said retaining plates each consist essentially of two plates having an undulate cross section, has hollow sections which are separated from one another, and forms a gap between said unit cells such that when one of said unit cells or a cell module comprising a plurality of said unit cells between said retaining plates ~~is removed and installed, and is defective or deteriorated in performance, the defective or deteriorated unit cell or cell module can be removed and replaced without dismantling the entire stack.~~

~~wherein the polymer electrolyte fuel cell further comprises a voltage measurement jig for said unit cells.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 1, wherein cooling water flows through said hollow sections between said unit cells or said cell module comprising a plurality of said unit cells.

3. (Previously Presented) The polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 1, wherein one of said conductive separator plates is provided for every two unit cells and has a cooling water flow channel, and one of said retaining plates is provided for every one cell module comprising a plurality of said unit cells.

4. (Currently Amended) The polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a voltage measurement jig and a voltage display for said unit cells.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising a stack containing a plurality of unit cells laminated, compressed and retained via retaining plates, said unit cells each comprising a pair of electrodes sandwiching a polymer electrolyte membrane and conductive separator plates having a gas supply channel on at least one surface thereof and sandwiching said electrodes,

wherein said retaining plates each consist essentially of two plates having an undulate cross section, has hollow sections which are separated from one another, and forms a gap between said unit cells such that when one of said unit cells or a cell module comprising a plurality of said unit cells between said retaining plates ~~is removed and installed, and is defective or deteriorated in performance, the defective or deteriorated unit cell or cell module can be removed and replaced without dismantling the entire stack,~~

wherein one of said conductive separator plates is provided for every two unit cells and has a cooling water flow channel, and one of said retaining plates is provided for every one cell module comprising a plurality of said unit cells.